A PRÆSENT FOR CÆSAR,

Of 100000 l, in hand and 50000 l. a year.

By *Thomas Bradley* D. D. and Minister of *Nettlebed*, in the County of Oxford.

Give unto Cæsar *the things that are* Cæsars. *Luke* 20. 25.

LONDON, Printed for the Author, and are to be sold by *Stephen* and *Thomas Lewis* in Shooe-lane, at the sign of the Book-binders.

1658.

46
11 3
289

To his Highneſs the Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, *and* Ireland, *with the Dominions thereunto belonging*, &c:

My Lord,

IT is not my buſineſs, nor intention in this Paper-preſent, to ſet out all Cæſars *dues, or duties; but as a Subject under your Highneſs government, and a friend and*

ſervant to the Commonwealth, whereof I am a Member, to do mine own. It is a buſineſſe concerning which I have formerly acquainted your Highnes with ſome things in the general; and ſince that, ſome others appointed by your Highneſs to take the cogniſance of it in particular; and it is at this preſent before the Commiſſioners for diſcoveries at VVorceſter-houſe *: But as the preſence of the Sun obſcures all other leſſer lights, and makes them burn more dimly, ſo the aſſembling of the preſent Parliament doth in a manner ſuſpend and ſuperſede all vigorous actings of derivative and infeour powers: And therefore I have made bold to make this addreſs immediatly unto your ſelf, and to preſent unto your Highneſs own hand and view, in ſhort, and yet in full too, the whole ſubſtance of the matter, with the grounds and reaſons of it;*

Col. Goffe, *Lieut. Col.* Worſley, *and Mr.* Scobel *clark of the Council.*

ſhew-

ſhewing the legality, equity, juſtice, and neceſsity of it, that you may at your leaſure deliberately conſider of it, and the more confidently reſolve what to do in it. It is the unhappineſs of great Princes, that they muſt ſee with other mens eyes, and hear with other mens ears; In this I deſire your own may be Judges. And now, my Lord, I ſhall humbly crave your favourable protection in the offer of this propoſal, and the further purſute of it, if any further purſute be made in it: For although it ſpeaks nothing but Law and Reaſon, Equity and Antiquity; yet what entertainment it may probably meet with when it comes abroad, both the title and the ſubject of it may promiſe and preſage, even ſuch as all ſubjects of this nature do uſually find, to be unwelcom; yet truly there are none of thoſe that are moſt concern'd in it, but upon conference, when they have

rightly understood my mind in it, and their own Case, they have gone away well satisfied; but, my Lord, they will be better satisfied, if in consideration of those great sums your Highness is to receive out of the Church-revenues, so freely and so firmly by law conferr'd upon you, your Highness will be pleased to protect them in all the rest, and to settle upon the Church, and confirm unto it her antient portion and patrimony, the Tithes, & to put them into a better capacity of demanding and receiving them, than now they are in, when men will pay them but what they list, and if they do but demand their dues of them in a legal way, presently they are threatned with ejectment, which (as things now stand with them) is no hard matter to compass, considering the many pins upon which their standing doth depend, and the world of exceptions,

which

which the Commissions, Proclamations, Orders, and Ordinances made concerning them (if stretch'd upon the tenters, to the extremity of them, and acted upon with rigour) make them liable unto; besides, many of those which are their Judges in these cases being of different judgements from them in matters of Religion, and ways of worship, and directly principled, not only against their persons, but even against their very callings and the payment of Tithes, out of which their livelihood, and your Highnesses revenue should arise, the continuance whereof is the only way of perpetuating the Ministry, in the Church; and which once taken away, it will inevitably follow, that in short space the Ministry will be utterly ruined and rooted out of the Church of England, *and that once down, all other Ordinances fall with it, which*

it

it is your higheſt honour to protect, and to uphold; but leaving theſe matters to your Higneſs wiſedom and care, with the contribution of my prayers to the great God of Heaven and Earth, the high diſpoof all things, for his bleſſed protection, direction, and aſſiſtance, to be ever preſent with you in all your Great, Noble, High, Wiſe, and Religious Undertakings, I paſſe to the buſineſe intended, and ſubſcribe as above,

Your Highneſſes and the Commonwealths, to ſerve you in all good ways,

Thomas Bradley.

A PRÆSENT FOR CÆSAR.

THere is no man that looks upon this Commonwealth, and conſiders it in the poſture that now it ſtands, but he will confeſſe that it would

would require even the golden mines of *Peru* to defray the charge of it, and to carry on the buſineſſes in which it is engag'd; hence it is that the ſupream Magiſtrate, upon whoſe ſhoulders the government of it lies, is forc'd to raiſe vaſt ſums of money by ſuch ways & means as reaſon of ſtate puts him upon, (as by contribution, exciſe, decimation, and the like) for the managing of them, which lie heavy upon the people, and

are

are reſented as grievous burdens: for let reaſon of State ſpeak what it will, and neceſſity be never ſo preſsing, men are not willing to part with their money, tis eaſe and freedom from burthens that they look for, which when they ſenſibly feel, then they will ſit down ſatisfied and contentedly acquieſce in their condition. What was it that kept the 10 tribes ſo cloſe to *Jeroboam*, and his ſucceſſors, after the

the rent from *Judah*, that through the reign of 18 Kings they kept conſtant to them, and never returned again, But that he did that which *Reboboam* ſhould have done, and which the people ſued for, and the grave Counſellers adviſed him to, in making their yoaks eaſier, and their burdens lighter? The neareſt way for us to do ſo too, is to alter the chargeable poſture that we now ſtand in, if with honour, juſtice

I mean not as to the form of it, but as to the charge of it.

ſtice, and ſafety, that may be done: but if that cannot be, the next way is to ſupply it with treaſure, by ſuch ways and means as are moſt clear and ſmooth, and leaſt liable to exceptions; and what more clear than what Law hath determined? what more juſt than for a man to demand his own? what more equal than for men to pay their debts which they owe? tis not a curteſie, but a duty, not a gratuity, but the pay-

the rent from *Judah*, that through the reign of 18 Kings they kept conſtant to them, and never returned again, But that he did that which *Rehoboam* ſhould have done, and which the people ſued for, and the grave Counſellers adviſed him to, in making their yoaks eaſier, and their burdens lighter? The neareſt way for us to do ſo too, is to alter the chargeable poſture that we now ſtand in, if with honour, juſtice

I mean not as to the form of it, but as to the charge of it.

ſtice, and ſafety, that may be done: but if that cannot be, the next way is to ſupply it with treaſure, by ſuch ways and means as are moſt clear and ſmooth, and leaſt liable to exceptions; and what more clear than what Law hath determined? what more juſt than for a man to demand his own? what more equal than for men to pay their debts which they owe? tis not a curteſie, but a duty, not a gratuity, but the pay-

payment of a juſt and due debt, *To render unto* Cæſar *the things that are* Cæſars. And ſuch is that which here I offer, which if it may be managed by ſuch hands as I have ready to commend, of men of known worth and integrity, fidelity and ability to undertake, and to perform it, It ſhall bring in to the Treaſury for the Præſent 1000000 l. and to the Revenue 500000l. yearly, and clearly, without any charge to the State

State in the gathering of it, or trouble, or just cause of grievance to any other that are most concern'd in it, whose good is principally aim'd at in this design, which is as followeth.

I Doe propose, that the Statute of the 26. of *Henry* the 8th. and of the first of Qu. *Eliz.* for payment of first-fruits, and tenths, may be put into due execution, which require that

they be paid in to the true value of them, and not as they ſtand partially rated in the late Kings books, by an antient inquiry made above 100 years ſince, which gives them not in to the 5th. nor to the 6th. nor ſcarce to the 8th. part of the true value of them, throughout the land.

Some

Some reaſons ſhewing the reaſonableneſs, equity, juſtice, and ſeaſonableneſſe of this Demand.

FIrſt it is legal that they ſhould be ſo paid, the Statute is clear, and peremptory for it as above, the 26. of *Hen:* the 8. and the 1. or Qu: *Eliz.* 1

2 Secondly, And that Statute made in a free & full Parliament, where the Biſhops chiefly concern'd in it, as Lords Spiritual (ſo called) ſate in the upper Houſe, in great power, and with them in that Parliament ſix and twenty Abbots, which (together) with the Biſhops, were able to have carried a Vote againſt the Lords temporal, which in thoſe days were not ſo numerous. And be-

beſides theſe a full Convocation of the Clergy ſitting, and unanimouſly aſſenting to it,

Thirdly, And this 3
Act ſo conſiderable, that three of the greateſt Officers in the land, The Lord Chancellor, the Lord chief Baron, and the Maſter of the Rolls, are thereby required to make Inquiry from time to time, by all the ways and means they can in their diſcretiõ deviſe, to find out the true

values of them, that ſo the firſt-fruits and tenths may be paid in accordingly. And againſt thoſe would I have put in my information in the Committee for diſcoveries, if my Council had not otherwiſe perſwaded and overruled me.

4 Fourthly, There is good Bond for it, which every Incumbent (at his entrance into his living) enters into the firſt-fruits Office, called the *Melius In-*

Inquirendum, the Condition whereof runs as followeth.

THE *Condition of this Obligation is ſuch, that if the Rectory of* A. *in the County of* B. *be hereafter proved to be of more yearly value than ten pounds, then if* C. D. *Incumbent there, do anſwer the Keepers of the Li-*

berties of England *accordingly within one moneth after Certificate of due proof thereof had, and delivered unto him, without fraud or further delay, then this presʃent Obligation to be void and of none effect, or elʃe to ʃtand and remain in full force and vertue.*

I Have taken ſome pains, and been at ſome coſt in this Inquiry, and I find this ten pound, commonly to be an hundred, ſeldom leſs than fourſcore; as for inſtances, the Rectory of *Alsford* in *Hampſhire*, ſtands in the late Kings Books at 29*l.* and ſome odd ſhillings: I have known this Rectory to be let at 450*l.* *communibus annis*, and beſides the * incumbent reſerving to himſelf the houſe,

* *Dr. Headlinge.*

houſe, with the accommodatious about it, with ſome gleab land, and other advantages, to the value of 30l. a year, and upward. I could multiply inſtances of this kind, if it were neceſſary.

5 Fifthly, We may better now afford to doe it than heretofore, inaſmuch as we are freed from many other burdens, and yearely payments which formerly we ſtood charged

ed withall (as Synodals, and procurations) and good reason for it; for the duties upon which they were charg'd being laid down, which were the calling of Synods, and visitations of the Churches, which were to be done at the charge of the Ministry, it will follow rationally, that the charge, occasioned by these duties, should die with them, as also the contributions usually given to the Bishops at their first

Procurabit Hospitia, & Synodalia.

firſt entrance upon their Sees by way of gratuity.

6 Sixthly, It was not ſo long ſince it was queſtioned, and that in Parliament too, whether any tithes ſhould be paid at all, and ſhall it now be queſtioned, whether theſe dues ſhall be paid out of them to his Highneſs which the Law requires?

7 Seventhly, VVhat more uſual with Chriſtian

ſtian Kings and Commonwealths than in great exigencies of affairs, as in their chargeable wars, &c. to ſupply their wants out of the Revenues of the Church, by receiving ſometimes a tenth, ſometimes a fifteenth part throughout their Dominions, and that where they have no ſuch Law for it as we have, but only *raggione del Stato*, as the *Italian* ſpeaks?

Eightly, If you look upon 8

upon the Preface that uſher'd in this Act when it was firſt made, in the 26. of *Hen.* 8. you ſhall find it ſpeaks as ſtrongly for his Highneſs, and the preſent affairs of the Commonwealth now, and they do as neceſſarily require it, as then they did.

9 Ninthly, Doe the great affairs of the Commonwealth force his Highneſs to raiſe ſuch great ſummes of mony for the managing of

of them, by ſuch ways and means as reaſon of ſtate puts him upon, as by contribution, deciſion, exciſe, and the like; and is it fit that ſuch ſums as theſe are, which are clearly due by Law, ſhould lie aſleep, and be wav'd the while?

Tenthly, Let noe man think it ſtrange, that the *melius Inquirendum* ſhould be now ſet on foot: The Lord Treaſurer *Buckhurſt* was ſetting

ſetting it on foot in his time, as his Secretary *Gurney* told me about eight and twenty years agoe, at my return out of *Spain*, where I had been with the Lord *Cottington*, Embaſſadour extraordinary, upon the treaty of the peace betweeen the two Kingdoms, then and there honourably concluded, ever ſince which time I have had it by me.

11 Eleventhly, I offered to ſet it on foot in the late

late Kings time, and for that purpoſe acquainted the Archbiſhop of *Canterbury* with it, but he kept it off, and charged me upon my Canonical obedience I ſhould not ſtir in it, neither did I while I owed him any.

Twelfthly, and mainly, even thoſe which are moſt concerned in it, and may pretend to have greateſt cauſe to except againſt it, ſhall receive advan- 12

ſetting it on foot in his time, as his Secretary *Gurney* told me about eight and twenty years agoe, at my return out of *Spain*, where I had been with the Lord *Cottington*, Embaſſadour extraordinary, upon the treaty of the peace betweeen the two Kingdoms, then and there honourably concluded, ever ſince which time I have had it by me.

11 Eleventhly, I offered to ſet it on foot in the late

late Kings time, and for that purpoſe acquainted the Archbiſhop of *Canterbury* with it, but he kept it off, and charged me upon my Canonical obedience I ſhould not ſtir in it, neither did I while I owed him any.

Twelfthly, and mainly, even thoſe which are moſt concerned in it, and may pretend to have greateſt cauſe to except againſt it, ſhall receive advan- 12

tage by it; It is the only way to ſettle them in their tithes, and to confirm them upon them, and to engage his Highneſs to protect them in the poſſeſſion and enjoyment of them, which before, and as yet doe ſtand but upon tottering terms; moſt of the Counties in *England* having petitioned againſt them; let them pay their dues, and they may with the better confidence demand and require them: But in the

mean

mean time, while they pay their dues to his Highneſs in ſuch an inconſiderable proportion, what if the Pariſhioner ſhould take the advantage of it to pay his tithes by the ſame proportion; and being required to pay them to the full value, ſhall anſwer, that he pays his tithes in to the Incumbent, after the ſame proportion, that the Incumbent pays them in to his Highneſs and the Commonwealth, both

being equally due? How this will ſtand good in Law I know not; but I am ſure it is good in equity.

Laſtly, were the revenues yet left unto the Church diſtributed in any indifferent or reaſonable proportion, with due reſpect had to the different worth, gifts, and parts, of thoſe that are imployed in the glorious work of the Miniſtry, and the different Congregations under their

their ſeveral charges, there is yet leſt means abundantly ſufficient for the maintenance and encouragement of an able Miniſtrie throughout the land, cheerfully paying out of it his Highneſſes dues too, which the Law requires in teſtimony of their thankfullneſſe to him for protecting them in all the reſt. For beſides all the defalcations and deductions that have been made out of it, both in the time of

Hen. the 8. and of the late Parliament, there is yet left unto it full half a million a year, and if course were taken, that this might be prudently proportioned, so as the greater livings might help the lesser, there would be found abundantly sufficient for both; and so all the revenues of the first-fruits Office, would come in clearly unto his Highness, which now goes all out in augmentations, and doth not serve

the

the turn neither; And if all the revenues of the Church will not now be ſufficient for the maintaining of the Miniſtry, now they are all ſet a part, and appropriated to that uſe, how did it ſerve the turn antiently, when they had ſcarce a fourth part of it, the other three being diſtributed to other uſes? for if you look back into antiquity, you ſhall find, that primitively theſe revenues were not ſhar'd amongſt the

Clergy *parochiatim*, by Pariſh meal, as now, it was many hundred years ſince Chriſt, before the Land was ſo divided, and cantoniz'd into Pariſhes; but all the tithes and oblations, and other revenues of the Church were put into ſeveral Church Treaſuries, in every Dioceſe one, thoſe treaſuries committed to the care and truſt of faithfull and prudent men, by whom they were to be diſtributed to pious and charitable

charitable uses, as need did require; those men by whom they were to be thus distributed, were the Deacons, according to the primitive institution, *Act.* 6. Those uses unto which they were distributed, were principally these four. First for the maintenance of the Ministry. Secondly, for the relief of the poor. Thirdly, for the building and repairing of Churches, and Religious houses. And 4thly, for the redemption

demption of Chriſtian Captives, the relief of perſecuted Chriſtians, and the like, ſo that of all theſe revenues there was not above a 4th. part fell to their ſhare; nor that neither, but with theſe 2 limitations:

1 Firſt, if they had no other competent means of their own to live upon; for if they had, then by the antient Canons, they were to receive no diſtribution out of the Church Revenue; but were to preach the Goſ-

pel

pel freely. *Qui bonis Parentum sustentari possunt Clerici, si quod pauperum est accipiunt, sacrilegium committunt;* Clerks or Clergy men which may be sustained by the goods of their Parents, or (as I conceive he means) by maintenance left them by their Parents, if they take any thing of the poors patrimony, they commit sacrilege; and what they meant by the poors patrimony, appears by the same father in another place.

Hieron. cap. clericos, 1, & 2.

place. *Quicquid poſſidet Eccleſia, vel in fundis, vel in pecunia, pauperum eſt patrimonium*; Whatſoever the Church poſſeſſeth, either in lands, or in money, it is the patrimony of the poor, they only had the honour and the truſt of the diſtributing of it, or overſeeing the diſtributing of it by the Deacons, in which regard moſt properly they were *Epiſcopi*, which ſignifieth overſeers; And good reaſon that themſelves, and the reſt of

the

the Clergy having not otherwiſe wherewith to ſuſtain themſelves, ſhould be ſupplied out of the treaſury; And ſo they were, but (which was the ſecond limitation) that ſo ſparingly, and ſo frugally, that there ſhould be no allowance for any vain, or unneceſſary expences, much leſs for purchaſing of lands and houſes, for raiſing of families to greatneſs, leaſt of all for Princely pomp, and ſtate; for what the

pomp

Concil. Aquil.

pomp & state of Bishops was in those days, appears by that modest Canon made in the antient Council of *Aquileia*, in these words* *Episcopus non procul ab Ecclesia habeat hospitiolum, vilem mensam, & supellectilem*; Let the Bishop have near unto the Church a little house or Hospital, and in it a mean table, with mean houshould-stuff. That grave Council, even by the Spirit of prophesie foreseeing, and prudently endeavouring

* *The motto of my house at* Nettl bed.

vouring to prevent that which after followed in the Princely pomp of Prelates.

Wherefore these things duly cosidered, I hope no man will be offended at me for what I here offer and present; but rather that I shall deserve thanks from all parties concern'd in it respectively; from his Highness for endeavouring the augmentation of his Treasury, and the increase of his Revenue,

in

in a legal way, whereby he may be the better inabled to defray the charge, and to carry on the great buſineſſes of the Commonwealth, committed to his care and truſt; from the Commonwealth, whoſe affairs ſhall by this means be the better adminiſtred, and they in due time eas'd from other burdens, now lying upon them; and from my brethren in the Miniſtry, whoſe portion and patrimony ſhall by this means

means be ſetled and confirmed upon them, and his Highneſs ingaged to protect them in the enjoymenr of them, together with his own intereſt, and in all other their antient duties and immunities, now miſerably invaded. In three words, Me thinks it ſhould be ſatisfactory to all, that there is nothing here propoſed but what there is Law for, what there is reaſon for, and what there is bond for. If his Higneſs will

be pleaſed to remit all theſe his dues now he knows them, he ſhall therein do a very noble, and gracious Act, and I ſhall have my ſhare in the benefit of it; but if (the exigencies of the time ſo requiring) he ſhal be pleaſed to demand them, we have no more reaſon to be offended with him for taking his own, than the people have to be offended with us for taking ours. The way for us to improve this payment

ment to our own advantage, is to doe it freely, and cheerfully, and out of our sence of the pressing necessities of the time, and our thankfulness to his Highness for our protection in them, to offer it up to him as a free-will offering; though there were no Law at all to require it. Were the Clergy of those times so sensible of the great burthens of the Commonwealth, and so thankfull to the King for his care and pains in

managing the affairs of it in troubleſome times, as to make ſuch a Law when there was none, and ſhall we be ſo inſenſible of the greater burdens of the preſent times, or ſo unthankfull to the ſupreme Magiſtrate, upon whoſe ſhoulders the weight of them lies more heavy than ever it did upon that King, as not to obſerve it now it is made? ſurely, as the Clergy of thoſe times did ſhew their ſenſe of

the

the one, and their thankfullneſs to the other, in their free offer of this their aſsiſtance, in making ſuch a Law; ſo the Miniſtry of theſe times will be much more forward to doe their parts to aſsiſt, enable, and encourage the Magiſtrate in his government by keeping it, and every one to put to his little finger, to the eaſing of him of the heavy burthen of it lying upon his ſhoulders; ſo as I truſt I may general-

ly in the name of them all, as well as of my ſelf, tender this preſent unto him as to our Patron, Protector and Benefactor. And although that ſervant which doth no more than his duty cannot plead merit, nor challenge any extraordinary reward; yet upon this our readineſs and cheerfullneſs in the performance of it, we may undoubtedly promiſe unto our ſelves from his Highneſs ſuch Acts of grace, in reference to our cal-

calling, and protection in the exerciſe of it, in reference to our maintenance by tithes, and that competent and certain, and in ſome indifferent manner proportiond unto us, & of our reſtauration to all other privileges, immunities & exemptions belonging to us, as may abundantly recompence the coſt of our obedience in this matter. In order to all theſe things, and of ſettling all things into a right poſture, concerning the

Miniſtry, there was a paper drawn up with a great deal of care, pains, ſtudy, and circumſpection, and offered to the late Parliament, though their multiplicity of buſineſs would not permit them to peruſe and to conſider of it within the time limited; which although it were preſented by inconſiderable hands, Mr. *Bakers* and my own, yet there were other hands and heads uſed in the compoſing and peruſing of

it.

it much more conſide-
rable; which if his
Highneſſes greater buſi-
neſſes would but permit
him to peruſe, or this
preſent Parliament now
conven'd to conſider of,
or to appoint ſome grave
Committee to take
the cognizance of it, it
would be found to be
of ſpecial uſe unto them,
and to give them much
light and many hints as
to this buſineſs, not to
be deſpiſed, in which
we ſhall be ready at all
times to ſerve them
with

with our best endeavours, if it be required.

In which (as also in any thing else that I have written, as touching the setling of Ministers in their dues, and their payment of their dues, I humbly crave to be candidly interpreted on both hands, my intentions in reference to both, being honest, just, and good, that *Cæsar* may have his due, and that they that pay it may have theirs too, with an earnest desire and hope,

that

that as they are to pay with one hand, ſo they may receive with the other; that in conſideration of theſe great ſums by their own voluntary Act, ſo clearly coming to the publike treaſury, for the publike good, ſome Act of Grace may be paſt for them, or ſomething done in favour of them, which may ſo ballance the payment of it, as that they may reſent it, not as a burthen, but a benefit, not as a damage, but

an

an advantage; if it ſhall pleaſe his Highneſs as freely to remit the payment unto them, as they did at firſt grant it unto him, and ſo engage the Pulpit to him that way, what is that to me? why ſhould my eye be evil becauſe his is good? he ſhall therein do an act both of bounty and policy; but what will the reſt of the Commonwealth think the while, when (reaſon of State and neceſsity ſo requiring) he

ſhall

ſhall raiſe ſuch great ſums of money from them by all the ways and means he can rationally and prudentially deviſe, and in the mean time gratifie theſe with ſuch great ſums of his own, ſo clearly by Law and reaſon due unto him? may his Highneſs be pleaſed but to take his own dues of them, and to grant them theirs in their antient portion, and patrimony, with all thoſe privileges, immunities & exemptions

emptions, in which the Law hath indulg'd them, custom confirm'd them, and all the Kings of this Nation, not only since the conquest, but since the first reformation have protected them in, his Highness dues may be paid, his treasuries supplyed, the Common-wealth eased in good part in some other burdens, and in all this they no losers but gainers by the bargain.

FINIS.